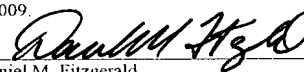09| 705110

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No.: 7,197,466   :

Issued: March 27, 2007   :

Inventor(s): Peterson et al.   :

Assignee: General Electric Capital Corporation :

For: WEB-BASED SYSTEM FOR   :
      MANAGING SOFTWARE ASSETS   :

Certificate
APR 0 2 2009
of Correction

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 27, 2009.

Daniel M. Fitzgerald
Reg. No. 38,880

Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF
PATENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.322(a)

Sir:

        Attached is Form PTO/SB/44 suitable for printing.

        Submitted herewith is a copy of the Corrected Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due and the Notice of Allowability dated September 5, 2006 and a copy of the claims from the Amendment filed March 14, 2006. Applicants respectfully submit that the corrections shown below are in accordance with the claims from the Amendment filed March 14, 2006. The corrections do not involve such changes in the patent as would constitute new matter or would require re-examination. Applicants respectfully request a Certificate of Correction for the following:

        In Claim 44, column 18, line 2, delete "least one question displayed two questions" and insert therefor --least two questions--.

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APR 0 2 2009

In Claim 74, column 22, line 1, delete "implementing implement the recommendation" and insert therefor --implementing the recommendation--.
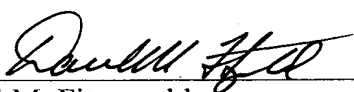
In Claim 95, column 23, line 12, delete "further configured to compare comprising" and insert therefor --further comprising--.

The corrections are not due to any error by Applicants and no fee is due.

The Assignment for this patent is recorded on Reel 012257/Frame 0420.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 3-27-09

Daniel M. Fitzgerald
Reg. No. 38,880
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070

2

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO.   : 7,197,466

APPLICATION NO.   : 09/705,110

ISSUE DATE   : March 27, 2007

INVENTOR(S)   : Peterson et al.

PAGE 1 OF 1

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In Claim 44, column 18, line 2, delete "least one question displayed two questions" and insert therefor --least two questions--.

In Claim 74, column 22, line 1, delete "implementing implement the recommendation" and insert therefor --implementing the recommendation--.

In Claim 95, column 23, line 12, delete "further configured to compare comprising" and insert therefor --further comprising--.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:
Daniel M. Fitzgerald
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
One Metropolitan Sq., Suite 2600
St. Louis, MO 63102

APR 0 2 2009

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

CORRECTED
NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590 09/05/2006	
John S Beulick Armstrong Teasdale LLP One Metropolitan Square Suite 2600 St. Louis, MO 63102-2740	

EXAMINER
BORISSOV, IGOR N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3639	

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2006

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/705,110	11/02/2000	Charlotte G. Peterson	60709-00016	4996

TITLE OF INVENTION: WEB-BASED SYSTEM FOR MANAGING SOFTWARE ASSETS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	$0	$0	$0	00/00/0000

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. NEITHER A NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE NOR A CORRECTED NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND ANY PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THE THREE MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING ON THE MAILING DATE OF THE PREVIOUSLY-MAILED NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ENDING ON THE DATE DUE SHOWN ON THIS FORM, OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. MAILING OF THIS CORRECTED NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE DOES NOT CHANGE THE DATE DUE OF THE ISSUE FEE (AND ANY REQUIRED PUBLICATION FEE). IF A REPLY (WITH PAYMENT OF THE ISSUE FEE AND ANY PUBLICATION FEE) WAS FILED IN RESPONSE TO THE PREVIOUSLY-MAILED NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE, THEN NO FURTHER REPLY IS REQUIRED FROM APPLICANT.

All communications regarding this application must include the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE, unless advised to the contrary.

Entered into PAGE/PIPS
Date: _9/14/06_
By: _Roy_

PTOL-85 (Rev. 12/04) Approved for use through 04/30/2007.

APR 0 2 2009

ENTERED
Date: 9/11/06
By: mw

60709-16

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/705,110	11/02/2000	Charlotte G. Peterson	60709-00016	4996

7590   09/05/2006

John S Beulick
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
One Metropolitan Square
Suite 2600
St. Louis, MO 63102-2740

EXAMINER
BORISSOV, IGOR N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3639	

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2006

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 674 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 674 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571) 272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

APR 0 2 2009

PTOL-85 (Rev. 12/04) Approved for use through 04/30/2007.

SUPPLEMENTAL **Notice of Allowability**	Application No. 09/705,110	Applicant(s) PETERSON ET AL.
	Examiner Igor Borissov	Art Unit 3639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *Amendment After Non-Final Rejection 3/14/2006*.

2. ☐ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-5, 7-23, 25-34, 36-84 and 86-117*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:
       1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
       2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
       3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
       1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
    Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)
1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
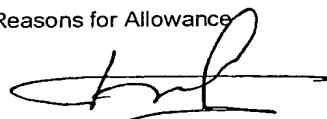
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____ .

IGOR N. BORISSOV
PRIMARY EXAMINER
APR 0 2 2009

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Amendment received on 3/14/2006 is acknowledged and entered. Claims 6, 24, 35, 85 and 118 have been canceled. Claims 1-5, 7-23, 25-34, 36-84 and 86-117 are currently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 112 and 35 USC § 103 have been withdrawn due to the applicant's amendment.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a personal interview with an applicant's representative Daniel M. Fitzgerald (Reg. No.:38,880) on Tuesday, May 30, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1, last line, amend as follows:

response inputted by the user[[,]];
providing results to the user.

Claim 47, last line, amend as follows:

APR 0 2 2008.

response inputted by the user[[,]];
providing results to the user.

Claim 48, last line, amend as follows:

performed using the server system[[,]];
providing results to the user.

Claim 49, last line, amend as follows:

On guidelines pre-stored within the database[[.]];
providing results to the user.

Claim 50, last line, amend as follows:

response inputted by the user[[,]].

Claim 115, last line, amend as follows:

response inputted by the user[[,]].

Claim 116, last line, amend as follows:

and the response inputted by the user[[,]].

Claim 117, last line, amend as follows:

determined criteria[[,]].

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-5, 7-23, 25-34, 36-84 and 86-117 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per independent claims 1-5, 7-23, 25-34, 36-84 and 86-117, the best prior art, Conte et al. (US 5,845,065) in view of Jacobson (US 6,735,701) and further in view of Hedstrom et al. (US 6,477,471) teaches a method and system for managing software assets, said method including: identifying at least one required software; conducting acquisition process and deploying said identified software; storing information relating to software owned or licensed by a business entity, including maintaining and reviewing software license assignments; tracking software licenses, purchasing and upgrading software; unassigning (retiring) software; and further including presenting via a Training Module a network user with a template (worksheet) including displaying to said user policy recommendation questions; processing responses received from said user by the policy effectiveness system to determine policy training needs and policy compliance history (compliance with the software management process); wherein sigma values computation technique is used for assessing compliance with software-related issues.

However, Conte et al. in view of Jacobson and further in view of Hedstrom et al. does not teach displaying in the assessment worksheet at least two questions including whether complete software license documentation has been maintained at the user's location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and licenses has been conducted by the user; and using the user's responses for said questions for determining compliance with the software management process by calculating sigma value.

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The best foreign art, Wolf (EP 667572 A1), teaches a method and system for software asset management, including management logic for any desired software asset management function for execution prior to permitting invocation and execution of the application program.

However, Wolf fails to disclose displaying in the assessment worksheet at least two questions including whether complete software license documentation has been maintained at the user's location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and licenses has been conducted by the user; and using the user's responses for said questions for determining compliance with the software management process by calculating sigma value.

The best NPL prior art, a North Plains Systems Web site, which appears to be established since April 1927 (See Waybackmachine Internet print out) discloses an application platform for facilitating companies to manage, distribute and monetize their digital content.

However, North Plains Systems fails to disclose displaying in the assessment worksheet at least two questions including whether complete software license documentation has been maintained at the user's location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and licenses has been conducted by the user; and using the user's responses for said questions for determining compliance with the software management process by calculating sigma value.

The remaining dependent claims are considered allowable, as they are dependent and based off of an allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reason for Allowance".
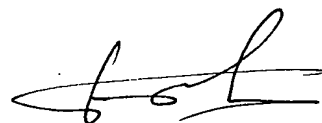
APR 0 2 2009

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Igor Borissov whose telephone number is 571-272-6801. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IGOR N. BORISSOV
PRIMARY EXAMINER

IB
5/31/2006

APR 0 2 2009

THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE IS REQUESTED TO IMPRESS ITS STAMP ON THIS
CARD AND PLACE SAME IN THE OUTGOING MAIL TO SHOW THE FOLLOWING PAPERS
HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

Attorney Docket No. 60709-00016 (85CI-00133)
Application of: Peterson et al.
Serial No. 09/705,110
Filed: November 2, 2000
Art Group Unit: 3629
For: WEB-BASED SYSTEM FOR MANAGING SOFTWARE ASSETS

Enclosed:
Transmittal (3 pages, in duplicate)
Amendment in Response to Office Action dated September 15, 2005 (49 pages)
Return post card

DMF/rgm
Express Mail Label No.: EV6792399470US
Mailed: March 14, 2006

EV6792994470US

Entered Into PAGE/PIPS
Date: 3/28/06
By: pgm

SCANNED 3/15/06
By: JmL

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60709-00016
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Peterson et al.   :
                                              : Art Unit: 3629
Serial No.: 09/705,110   :
                                              : Examiner: Igor N. Borissov
Filed: November 2, 2000   :
                                              :
For: WEB-BASED SYSTEM FOR   :
        MANAGING SOFTWARE ASSETS   :

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

In response to the Office Action dated September 15, 2005, please amend the above-

identified patent application as follows.

Express Mail Label No.: L 679299470US

60709-00016
PATENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 118.

1. (currently amended) A method for managing software assets of a business entity using a web-based system including a server system coupled to a centralized database and at least one client system, the business entity having a software management process, said method comprising:

identifying at least one software asset satisfying a predetermined requirement of the business entity;

initiating and completing an acquisition process of the at least one software asset satisfying the predetermined business requirement;

deploying the acquired software asset including installing the acquired software asset on at least one of the server system and the at least one client system, the deployed software asset is accessed using the at least one client system;

storing in the centralized database information relating to the acquired software asset owned or licensed by the business entity including storing terms and conditions of a corresponding software license;

maintaining the acquired software asset licensed by the business entity including reviewing each the software license and installing updated software on at least one of the server system and the at least one client system when provided by the software license;

retiring the acquired software asset when the acquired software asset is no longer required by the business entity including de-installing the acquired software asset; and

auditing the acquired software asset owned or licensed by the business entity by:

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transmitting data from the server to the at least one client system to display an assessment worksheet on the at least one client system, ~~the worksheet including at least one question relating to the acquired software asset~~;

displaying in the assessment worksheet at least two questions including whether complete software license documentation has been maintained at the user's location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and licenses has been conducted by the user;

inputting a response by the user ~~prompting a user to respond~~ to the ~~at least one question displayed on the at least one client system~~ at least two questions presented in the assessment worksheet;

~~processing at~~ inputting to the server ~~at least one~~ the response received from the user to the at least ~~one question displayed~~ two questions presented in the assessment worksheet; and

determining compliance with the software management process including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset by:

calculating at the server a sigma value based at least in part on the ~~at least one~~ response ~~received from~~ inputted by the user~~, wherein the sigma value indicates compliance with the software management process of the business entity including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset~~.

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PATENT

2. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of

identifying at least one software asset further comprises the steps of storing and updating

information into the database relating to each identified software asset.

3. (original) A method according to Claim 2 wherein said steps of storing and updating

information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least as one of

a last name of an employee, a first name of the employee, a middle initial of the employee, a

status of the employee, a building and room code where the employee is located, a work phone

number, a user identification, an e-mail address, a facsimile number, a manager's name who has

direct supervisory authority over the employee, a department name and code of the department, a

payroll number, a social security number, and a pay cycle category such as weekly, biweekly and

monthly.

4. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing

and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at

least one of a software title, a software serial number, a software manufacturer, a brief

description of the software, a date on which software was acquired, restrictions or limitations on

software use, employees on whose desktop the software was installed, purchase order details

relating to the software verifying the proof of purchase, comments on software functionality, and

details useful to prove legal ownership and use of the software.

5. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing

and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at

least one of a serial number for hardware, a name of an employee whom the specific hardware

has been assigned to and the date on which assigned, details on the hardware such as a

manufacturer's name, an address, warranty information, hardware capabilities including

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PATENT

specifications, month and a year of acquisition, hardware classification such as a desktop unit or a laptop unit, lease related information, if applicable, and details useful to prove legal ownership and use of the hardware.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least one of a department title, a manager's name, a manager's social security number, a manager's mail stop code, a telephone number and an extension, a business unit contact person's name, a telephone number, mail code, address, and facsimile number of the contact person.

8. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least one of a vendor name, a vendor's business address including a city, state and zip code, vendor status such as preferred or non preferred, quality rating of the vendor, customer service rating of the vendor, contact person's name for the vendor, terms on which the vendor expects to get paid, and vendor relationship details regarding the vendor.

9. (original) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least one of general training materials available for each of the software purchased and licensed and instructions on how to obtain such training materials.

10. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 3 wherein said steps of storing and updating information into the database further comprises the step of storing and updating at least one of self assessment responses against a set of specific questions, responses of independent audit against a set of specific questions, any self assessment comments, comments

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by an audit committee, business unit's name, location, and a person completing self assessment, and compliance information relating to the software management process.

11. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of identifying at least one software asset further comprises the step of defining business requirements to be addressed by the software asset.

12. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of identifying at least one software asset further comprises the step of analyzing information technology requirements.

13. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of identifying at least one software asset further comprises the step of analyzing environmental standards.

14. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of identifying at least one software asset further comprises the step of reviewing and finalizing business solution requirements.

15. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of identifying at least one software asset further comprises the step of identifying software alternatives that meet business requirements.

16. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of initiating and completing acquisition process further comprises the steps of evaluating and checking for existing software contracts.

17. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of initiating and completing an acquisition process further comprises the steps of:

making a decision to at least one of use an existing software, buy a new software, and build a new software; and

implementing the decision to at least one of use an existing software, buy a new software, and build a new software.

18. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 17 wherein said step of implementing the decision further comprises the steps of:

reviewing results of the decision;

preparing and submitting at least one of a request for proposal and a request for information to prospective vendors and reviewing results; and

negotiating and selecting a vendor to acquire the software.

19. (original) A method according to Claim 17 wherein said step of implementing the decision further comprises the step of deciding at least one of copying an existing software and purchasing additional licenses for the existing software.

20. (original) A method according to Claim 18 wherein said step of reviewing results of the decision further comprises the step of at least one of approving the decision and rejecting the decision based on subjective and objective criteria.

21. (original) A method according to Claim 18 wherein said step of reviewing results of the decision further comprises the step of entering the decision into the database.

22. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 18 wherein said step of reviewing results of the decision further comprises the step of ensuring compliance with equity investments guidelines, contract terms and conditions, and legal and financial requirements prior to acquisition of the software.

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PATENT

23. (original) A method according to Claim 18 wherein said step of negotiating and selecting a vendor to acquire the software further comprises the step of executing at least one of a purchase order and a contract to acquire the software.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of deploying the acquired software further comprises the steps of:

tracking licenses; and

updating the database with the current information relating to licenses.

26. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining the acquired software asset further comprises the steps of:

reviewing maintenance terms of a software license; and

purchasing upgrades for the software license.

27. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining each the acquired software asset further comprises the step of maintaining software licensed by the business entity.

28. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining the acquired software asset further comprises the step of further deploying an upgraded version of the software.

29. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining the acquired software asset further comprises the step of updating software purchase related information into the database.

APR 0 2 2009

30. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining the acquired software asset further comprises the step of updating software license related information into the database.

31. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of maintaining the acquired software asset further comprises the step of renewing a maintenance contract for each software asset having such a maintenance contract.

32. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of retiring a software asset further comprises:

de-installing and destroying software in accordance with a license to use the software; and

updating the database with revised licensing information.

33. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of retiring a software asset further comprises:

de-installing and destroying software in accordance with a license to use the software; and

updating the database with purchasing information.

34. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of auditing the acquired software asset further comprises the steps of evaluating and assessing exposure of a department within the business entity.

35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A method according to Claim [[35]] 1 wherein said steps of calculating a sigma value further comprises the steps of comparing sigma values computed for each department within the business entity.

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37. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 34 wherein said step of auditing the acquired software asset further comprises the steps of developing and implementing corrective actions to improve the performance of the business entity.

38. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said method further comprising the step of entering information at least through one of a device connected to the client system.

39. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said method further comprising the step of providing information in response to an inquiry.

40. (original) A method according to Claim 39 wherein said step of providing information in response to an inquiry further comprises the steps of:

downloading requested information from a server system; and

displaying requested information on a client system in response to the inquiry.

41. (original) A method according to Claim 39 wherein said step of providing information further comprises the step of printing requested information in a pre-determined format.

42. (original) A method according to Claim 39 wherein said step of providing information further comprises the step of accepting an inquiry from a user.

43. (original) A method according to Claim 42 wherein said step of accepting an inquiry further comprises the steps of:

displaying information on the client system; and

receiving an inquiry from the client system.

44. (original) A method according to Claim 43 wherein said step of receiving an inquiry from the client system further includes the steps of submitting a request through pull down menus.

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45. (original) The method according to Claim 43 wherein said step of displaying information further includes displaying an HTML document downloaded by the server system.

46. (original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the client system and the server system are connected via a network and wherein the network is one of a wide area network, a local area network, an intranet and the Internet.

47. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a business entity using a computer coupled to a database, the business entity having a software management process, said method comprising:

accessing the database containing software assets information including data relating to each software asset owned or licensed by the business entity including terms and conditions of each corresponding software license;

searching the database regarding a specific inquiry received from a user;

retrieving information from the database;

causing the retrieved information to be displayed on the computer for tracking, monitoring and auditing purposes; and

auditing each software asset owned or licensed by the business entity by:

transmitting data for a selected software asset from the database to the computer to display an assessment worksheet on the computer, the worksheet including at least one question relating to the selected software asset;

displaying in the assessment worksheet at least two questions including whether complete software license documentation has been maintained at the user's location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and licenses has been conducted by the user;

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inputting a response by the user ~~prompting a user to respond~~ to the ~~at least one~~

~~question displayed on the computer~~ at least two questions presented in the assessment

worksheet;

inputting to ~~processing at~~ the computer ~~at least one~~ the response received from

the user to the at least ~~one question displayed~~ two questions presented in the

assessment worksheet; and

determining compliance with the software management process including

compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the

acquired software asset by:

calculating at the computer a sigma value based at least in part on the ~~at~~

~~least one~~ response ~~received from~~ inputted by the user, ~~wherein the sigma value~~

~~indicates compliance with the software management process of the business~~

~~entity including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software~~

~~license corresponding to the selected software asset~~.

48. (currently amended) A method for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a

business entity using a web-based server system coupled to a database and at least one client

system, the business entity having a software management process, said method comprising:

displaying on the client system for a user a software management assessment check list

that includes at least two questions including whether complete software license documentation

has been maintained at the user's location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and

licenses has been conducted ~~including a series of questions relating to a software asset owned or~~

~~licensed by the business entity~~;

inputting a response by the user ~~receiving at the server system responses entered by the~~ ~~user using the client system~~ to each question included within the software management assessment check list; and

determining compliance with the software management process including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset by:

calculating a sigma value based at least in part on the responses inputted by the user and on guidelines pre-stored within the database, the calculations are performed using the server system~~, wherein the sigma value indicates compliance~~ ~~with the software management process of the business entity including compliance~~ ~~with software licenses associated with the software asset~~.

49. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a business entity and providing a software management sigma value based on pre-stored information, the business entity having a software management process, said method comprising:

storing in a database information relating to a software asset owned or licensed by the business entity including storing terms and conditions of a corresponding software license;

displaying on a computer system an assessment worksheet including questions relating to the software asset;

displaying in the assessment worksheet at least two questions including whether complete software license documentation has been maintained at the user's location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and licenses has been conducted by the user;

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inputting a response by the user ~~prompting a user to respond~~ to the ~~at least one question displayed on the computer~~ at least two questions presented in the assessment worksheet;

inputting to ~~receiving at~~ the computer system ~~user input in~~ the user's response to the ~~assessment worksheet~~ at least two questions presented in the assessment worksheet;

determining compliance with the software management process including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset by:

analyzing user input against a pre-determined criteria; and

calculating a sigma value based at least in part on the responses inputted by the user and on guidelines pre-stored within the database.

~~outputting from the computer system a software management sigma value calculated by the computer system based on the user input and the pre-determined criteria, wherein the sigma value indicates compliance with the software management process of the business entity including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset.~~

50. (currently amended) A web-based system for managing software assets of a business entity, the business entity having a software management process, said system comprising:

a client system,

a centralized database for storing information, and

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said centralized database, said web-based system further comprising:

means for identifying at least one software asset satisfying a predetermined requirement of the business entity;

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means for initiating and completing an acquisition process of the at least one software

asset satisfying the predetermined business requirement;

means for prompting a user to deploy the acquired software asset including installing the

acquired software asset on at least one of the server system and the client system, the deployed

software asset is accessed using the client system;

means for storing in the database information relating to the acquired software asset

including storing terms and conditions of a corresponding software license;

means for maintaining the acquired software asset including prompting the user to review

the software license and installing updated software on at least one of the server and the client

system as provided by the software license;

means for prompting the user to retire a the acquired software asset when the acquired

software asset is no longer required by the business entity including de-installing the acquired

software asset; and

means for auditing the acquired software asset by:

transmitting data from the server to the client system to display an assessment

worksheet on the at least one client system, the worksheet including at least one

question relating to the acquired software asset;

displaying in the assessment worksheet at least two questions including

whether complete software license documentation has been maintained at the user's

location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and licenses has been

conducted by the user;

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inputting a response by the user ~~prompting a user to respond~~ to the ~~at least one~~

~~question displayed on the at least one client system~~ at least two questions presented in

the assessment worksheet;

~~processing at~~ inputting to the server ~~at least one~~ the response received from the

user to the at least ~~one question displayed~~ two questions presented in the assessment

worksheet; and

determining compliance with the software management process including

compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the

acquired software asset by:

calculating at the server a sigma value based at least in part on the ~~at~~

~~least one~~ response ~~received from~~ inputted by the user ~~, wherein the sigma value~~

~~indicates compliance with the software management process of the business~~

~~entity including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software~~

~~license corresponding to the acquired software asset.~~

51. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said client system

further ~~configured with~~ comprising:

a displaying component; and

a sending component to send an inquiry to the server system so that the server system can

process and download the requested information to the client system.

52. (original) A system according to Claim 51 wherein the sending component functions

in response to a click of a mouse button.

53. (original) A system according to Claim 51 wherein the sending component functions

in response to a voice command.

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54. (original) The client system of Claim 51 wherein said server system is protected from access by unauthorized individuals.

55. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured with~~ <u>comprising</u>:

a collection component for collecting information from users into the centralized database;

a tracking component for tracking information on an on-going basis;

a displaying component for displaying information;

a receiving component for receiving an inquiry from the client system; and

an accessing component to access the centralized database and causing the retrieved information to be displayed on the client system.

56. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 55 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further configured with a receiving component for receiving an inquiry to provide information from one of a plurality of users.

57. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 55 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured with~~ <u>comprising</u> a processing component for searching and processing received inquiries against the data storage device containing variety of information collected by the collection component.

58. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 55 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured with~~ <u>comprising</u> a retrieving component to retrieve information from the data storage device.

59. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 55 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured with~~ <u>comprising</u> an information fulfillment component that downloads the

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requested information after retrieving from the data storage device to the plurality of users in the order in which the requests were received by the receiving component.

60. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to provide~~ comprising a means for providing access only to authorized individuals.

61. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to store and update~~ comprising a means for storing and updating information into the database.

62. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to store and update~~ comprising a means for storing and updating at least ~~as~~ one of a last name of an employee, a first name of the employee, a middle initial of the employee, a status of the employee, a building and room code where the employee is located, a work phone number, a user identification, an e-mail address, a facsimile number, a manager's name who has direct supervisory authority over the employee, a department name and code of the department, a payroll number, a social security number, and a pay cycle category such as weekly, biweekly and monthly.

63. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to store and update~~ comprising a means for storing and updating at least one of a software title, a software serial number, a software manufacturer, a brief description of the software, a date on which software was acquired, restrictions or limitations on software use, employees on whose desktop the software was installed, purchase order details relating to the software verifying the proof of purchase, any comments on software functionality, and other pertinent details useful to prove legal ownership and use of the software.

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64. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to store and update~~ <u>comprising a means for storing and updating</u> at least one

of a serial number for hardware, a name of an employee whom the specific hardware has been

assigned to and the date on which assigned, details on the hardware such as a manufacturer's

name, an address, warranty information, hardware capabilities including specifications, month

and a year of acquisition, hardware classification such as a desktop unit or a laptop unit, any

lease related information, if applicable, and other pertinent details useful to prove legal

ownership and use of the hardware.

65. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to store and update~~ <u>comprising a means for storing and updating</u> at least one

of a software title, a software serial number, a software manufacturer, a brief description of the

software, a date on which software was licensed, restrictions or limitations on software use,

employees on whose desktop the software was installed, contract details relating to the software

licensing verifying the license, any comments on software functionality, and other pertinent

details useful to prove valid licensing and use of the software.

66. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to store and update~~ <u>comprising a means for storing and updating</u> at least one

of a department title, a manager's name, a manager's social security number, a manager's mail

stop code, a telephone number and an extension, a business unit contact person's name, a

telephone number, mail code, address, facsimile number and other relevant information of the

contact person.

67. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to store and update~~ <u>comprising a means for storing and updating</u> at least one

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of a vendor name, a vendor's business address including a city, state and zip code, vendor status

such as preferred or non preferred, quality rating of the vendor, customer service rating of the

vendor, contact person's name for the vendor, terms on which the vendor expects to get paid, and

any other vendor relationship details regarding the vendor.

68. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to store and update~~ comprising a means for storing and updating at least one

of general training materials available for each of the software purchased and licensed and

instructions on how to obtain such training materials.

69. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to store and update~~ comprising a means for storing and updating at least one

of self assessment responses against a set of specific questions, responses of independent audit

against a set of specific questions, any self assessment comments, comments by an audit

committee, business unit's name, location, and a person completing self assessment, and

compliance information relating to the software management process.

70. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to define~~ comprising a means for defining business requirements to be

addressed by the at least one software asset.

71. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to analyze~~ comprising a means for analyzing information technology

requirements.

72. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to analyze~~ comprising a means for analyzing environmental standards.

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73. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to review and finalize~~ comprising a means for reviewing and finalizing business solution requirements.

74. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to identify~~ comprising a means for identifying software alternatives that meet business requirements.

75. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to initiate and complete~~ comprising a means for initiating and completing an acquisition process including prompting a user to decide to at least one of using an existing software, buying a new software, and building a new software to satisfy the business requirement.

76. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 75 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to evaluate and check~~ comprising a means for evaluating and checking for existing software contracts.

77. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 75 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to~~ comprising:

means for recommending ~~recommend~~ whether to at least one of use an existing software, buy a new software, and build a new software; and

means for implementing ~~implement~~ the recommendation to at least one of use an existing software, buy a new software, and build a new software.

78. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 75 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to~~ comprising:

means for reviewing ~~review~~ results of the user's decision;

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means for preparing and submitting ~~prepare and submit~~ at least one of a request for

proposal and a request for information to prospective vendors; and

means for selecting ~~select~~ a vendor to acquire the software.

79. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to recommend~~ comprising a means for recommending at least one of copying

an existing software and purchasing additional licenses for the existing software.

80. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to analyze~~ comprising a means for analyzing the user's decision based on

subjective and objective criteria.

81. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to reject~~ comprising a means for rejecting the user's decision based on

subjective and objective criteria.

82. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to enter~~ comprising a means for entering the decision into the database.

83. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to facilitate~~ comprising a means for facilitating compliance with equity

investment guidelines, contract terms and conditions and other legal and financial requirements

prior to the acquisition of the software.

84. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 78 wherein said server system ~~is~~

further ~~configured to generate~~ comprising a means for generating at least one of a purchase order

and a contract to acquire the software.

85. (canceled)

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86. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 84 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to track~~ comprising a means for tracking software licenses.

87. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 84 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to update~~ comprising a means for updating the database.

88. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system ~~configured to analyze~~ comprising a means for analyzing maintenance terms of a software contract for maintaining the software asset.

89. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to purchase~~ comprising a means for purchasing upgrades for the software contract.

90. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to maintain~~ comprising a means for maintaining software.

91. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to deploy~~ comprising a means for deploying an upgraded version of the software.

92. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to update~~ comprising a means for updating software purchase related information into the database.

93. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to update~~ comprising a means for updating software license related information into the database.

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94. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 88 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to renew~~ comprising a means for renewing a maintenance contract for a software asset.

95. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system ~~is~~ ~~configured to prompt~~ comprising a means for prompting a user to retire a software asset including de-installing and destroying the software in accordance with a corresponding software license, and updating the database with revised licensing information.

96. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 95 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to update~~ comprising a means for updating the server system with the purchasing information.

97. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to evaluate and assess~~ comprising a means for evaluating and assessing exposure of a department within the business entity.

98. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 97 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to compute~~ comprising a means for computing a sigma value.

99. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 97 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to compare~~ comprising a means for comparing sigma values computed for each department within the business entity.

100. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to provide~~ comprising a means for providing auditing functions.

101. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 100 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to develop and implement~~ comprising a means for developing and implementing corrective actions to improve the performance of the department.

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102. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 100 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to enter~~ <u>comprising a means for entering</u> information at least through one of a device connected to the client system.

103. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 50 wherein said server system ~~is~~ further ~~configured to provide~~ <u>comprising a means for providing</u> information in response to an inquiry.

104. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 103 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to~~ <u>comprising</u>:

    <u>means for downloading</u> ~~download~~ requested information from a server system; and

    <u>means for displaying</u> ~~display~~ requested information on a client system in response to the inquiry.

105. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 104 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to display~~ <u>comprising a means for displaying</u> an HTML document downloaded by the server system.

106. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 103 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to print~~ <u>comprising a means for printing</u> requested information in a pre-determined format.

107. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 103 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to accept~~ <u>comprising a means for accepting</u> an inquiry from a user.

108. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 107 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to~~ <u>comprising</u>:

    <u>means for displaying</u> ~~display~~ information on to the client system; and

    <u>means for receiving</u> ~~receive~~ an inquiry from the client system.

109. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 108 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to submit~~ <u>comprising a means for submitting</u> a request through pull down menus.

110. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 108 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to display~~ <u>comprising a means for displaying</u> an HTML document downloaded by the server system.

111. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 108 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to display~~ <u>comprising a means for displaying</u> at least one alternative out of various alternatives available to the user.

112. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 108 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to~~ <u>comprising</u>:

means for accessing ~~access~~ the centralized database;

means for searching ~~search~~ the database regarding the specific inquiry;

means for retrieving ~~retrieve~~ information from the database; and

means for causing the retrieved information to be displayed on the client system.

113. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 108 wherein said server system is further ~~configured to submit~~ <u>comprising submitting</u> a request through pull down menus.

114. (currently amended) A software license management system to automate a software management process for managing software assets of a business entity, measuring compliance requirements, and tracking/reporting status as necessary to assure proficiency and adherence to implementation requirements of the software management process, said system comprising:

a client system,

a centralized database for storing information, and

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said centralized database, said management system further comprising:

means for organizing and processing information using at least one of a software identification module, an acquisition module, a deployment module, a maintenance module and a software retirement module;

means for displaying an assessment worksheet on the client system, the worksheet including a plurality of questions relating to a software asset of the business entity;

means for displaying in the assessment worksheet at least two questions including whether complete software license documentation has been maintained at the user's location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and licenses has been conducted by the user;

means for inputting a response by the user to the at least two questions presented in the assessment worksheet prompting a user to respond to the assessment worksheet including the plurality of questions relating to a the software asset of the business entity;

means for computing a sigma value based on the user's responses to the plurality of at least two questions to measure compliance with the software management process including compliance with software licenses associated with the software asset; and

means for providing feedback and suggestions based on the computed sigma value to help reduce the exposure to litigation and penalties, maximize software asset utilization through tighter inventory control, and capitalize on the software procurement process.

115. (currently amended) A system for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a business entity, the business entity having a software management process, said system comprising:

a client system;

a centralized database for storing information, and

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said centralized database, said system further comprising:

means for accessing the centralized database containing software assets information including data relating to each software asset owned or licensed by the business entity including terms and conditions of each corresponding software license;

means for searching the database regarding a specific inquiry received from a user;

means for retrieving information from the database;

means for causing the retrieved information to be displayed for tracking, monitoring and auditing purposes; and

means for auditing each software asset owned or licensed by the business entity by:

transmitting data for a selected software asset from the server to the client system to display an assessment worksheet, ~~the worksheet including at least one question relating to the selected software asset~~;

displaying in the assessment worksheet at least two questions including whether complete software license documentation has been maintained at the user's location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and licenses has been conducted by the user;

inputting a response by the user ~~prompting a user to respond~~ to the at least two questions presented in the assessment worksheet ~~one question displayed on the client system~~;

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inputting to ~~processing at~~ the server ~~at least one~~ the response received from the

user to the at least ~~one question displayed~~ two questions presented in the assessment

worksheet; and

determining compliance with the software management process including

compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the

acquired software asset by:

calculating at the server a sigma value based at least in part on the ~~at~~

~~least one~~ response ~~received from~~ inputted by the user~~, wherein the sigma value~~

~~indicates compliance with the software management process of the business~~

~~entity including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software~~

~~license corresponding to the selected software asset~~.

116. (currently amended) A system for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a

business entity, the business entity having a software management process, said system

comprising:

a client system,

a centralized database for storing information, and

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said centralized

database, said system further comprising:

means for displaying on the client system for a user a software management assessment

checklist ~~including a series of questions relating to a software asset owned or licensed by the~~

~~business entity~~;

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means for displaying in the assessment checklist at least two questions including whether complete software license documentation has been maintained at the user's location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and licenses has been conducted by the user;

means for inputting a response by the user to the at least two questions presented in the assessment checklist ~~receiving responses entered by the user through the client system to each question included within the software management assessment check-list~~; and

means for determining compliance with the software management process including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset by:

computing a sigma value based on guidelines pre-stored within the database and the response inputted by the user~~, wherein the sigma value indicates compliance with the software management process of the business entity including compliance with software licenses associated with the software asset~~.

117. (currently amended) A system for tracking software assets owned and licensed by a business entity, the business entity having a software management process, said system comprising:

a client system,

a centralized database for storing information, and

a server system configured to be coupled to said client system and said centralized database, said system further comprising:

means for storing in the database information relating to a software asset owned or licensed by the business entity including storing terms and conditions of a corresponding software license;

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means for displaying on the client system an assessment worksheet ~~including questions relating to the software asset~~;

means for displaying in the assessment worksheet at least two questions including whether complete software license documentation has been maintained at the user's location, and whether a reconciliation of installed software and licenses has been conducted by the user;

means for inputting a response by the user to the at least two questions presented in the assessment worksheet ~~receiving user input in response to the assessment worksheet~~;

means for determining compliance with the software management process including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset by:

analyzing user input against a pre-determined criteria; and

~~means for outputting~~ calculating a sigma value based on the user input and the pre-determined criteria, ~~wherein the sigma value indicates compliance with the software management process of the business entity including compliance with the terms and conditions of the software license corresponding to the acquired software asset~~.

118. (canceled)